

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. Selectmen present were: James McIlroy and Michael Woodworth. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Police Chief Reed, Town Clerk Sue McKinnon, and Town Planner Reuben Hull.

The letter from the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration regarding the \$1,000. discrepancy between the budget amount posted on the warrant and deliberative minutes vs. the amount printed on the ballot was reviewed. The amount of \$1,443,749. remains the budget for the Town for 2007.

An individual employee contacted the Town's Insurance Carrier for a quote for disability insurance. The Insurance Carrier does not quote prices to individuals and contacted the Town Office on how to proceed. As the Town received quotes of this type a year or so ago, they are not interested in receiving new quotes at this time.

The Selectmen reviewed the prices on the brickwork and railing which need to be installed for the handicapped ramp. They need to know the amount left in the Town Hall Repair Account for this project.

The reports to NOAA on the Piscassic Greenway were reviewed. We are waiting for additional information from Brian Hart of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire to complete the reports. James will help Nancy Spencer complete the final two financial reports necessary.

A resident spoke to Wes about speeding on Old Lee Road and Dixon Avenue. The Selectmen will encourage the Chief to spend time on town roads that are susceptible to speeding.

Wes suggested that the Selectmen might consider sending a letter to the residents asking that they observe the speed limits. The other Selectmen did not feel that this was a good idea, but agreed to put a message on the marquee when space is available.

Chief Reed advised that he received the Personnel Policy via e-mail with the changes previously discussed included.

The Hazardous Mitigation Grant requires a letter of intent and Chief Reed will take care of sending that letter.

The complaint Wes received regarding speeding on Old Lee Road and Dixon Avenue was discussed. Chief Reed states that he has been on Old Lee Road at least 301 times in the last eighteen months. The officers are on the street at least four times daily and the 301 additional times were for various reasons including seventy-one times just for radar. The average speed on Old Lee Road is 27mph. He stated that it appears that vehicles are going faster than they actually are as the street is narrow.

The Chief stated that the department is up on arrests, up on stops and the radar is always on. He said that it takes 2 ½ hours at the speed limit to drive all of the roads in Newfields. In a best scenario a police cruiser will be on each street 3 times per day. The department made over 3,000 stops last year. Newfields is on a website to avoid driving through because of the high incidence of vehicle stops, speeding tickets, and dui arrests.

If someone wants to speak with the Chief about specific instances of speeding, the Chief will speak with the “offender” if enough information is provided to identify the “offender”.

The Chief was asked if he had any comments about the proposed bicycle lane. The Chief felt everything was covered in the meeting. He feels a bicycle lane is a good idea, but the bridge is dangerous.

The fact that disability insurance quotes were requested from the Town’s insurance carrier was discussed. Chief Reed stated that he requested the quotes. James advised the Chief that he could review the quotes from a year ago (the Chief has done so), but the Selectmen are not inclined to add this benefit to the employee package at this time.

James advised that the letter to the Dispatch Advisory Committee is still not ready.

Chief Reed stated that the road race went very well. There were over 300 runners participating (the insurance binder was received prior to the race) and there was no problem with parking.

The Selectmen feel that they have a responsibility to explore reconciling the space needs of the Town and Departments with the available buildings and land. The Selectmen are not looking to propose any large spending packages, but want to better understand the assessment performed by the Buildings and Facilities Committee and draw any appropriate conclusions about any potential future plan.

The Selectmen met with the Police Chief and Town Clerk in order to better understand the prioritization of their responses to the needs assessment. As part of the process, the Selectmen have reviewed the old plans drawn up for the Town Hall and reviewed the 2002 Warrant Article for \$80,000. to be placed in a Trust Fund

for Town Hall Renovations. The Warrant Article did not pass.

Wes asked if Michael spoke with Paul Deschaine of Stratham regarding the sign ordinance enforcement. Michael said no and Wes strongly suggested that Michael call Paul.

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2007 meeting. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor. Wes abstained from the vote as he did not attend that meeting.

Reuben Hull was asked for a history of the handicapped ramp. Reuben stated that it was a disjointed project from the beginning. Asphalt was discussed for the construction but it was decided to go with wood construction. The railings were not discussed until after the ramp was built. It is much cheaper to do the railings in wood. The cost of the metal railings shocked Reuben and he is still looking for other quotes.

Wes feels that Reuben dropped the ball on this project, that it has been poorly managed, and that it does not reflect well on Reuben personally nor the Selectmen.

Wes will contact a welder he knows to have him contact Reuben for pricing on the railings. Reuben stated that putting a curb at the bottom of the ramp would eliminate the need for a 4th rail. This would reduce the cost by ¼. The Selectmen will have the June figures available at the next meeting and might have the funds necessary to finish the project this year.

The Selectmen discussed the Civil Design Engineering Consultants, LLC contract. Reuben will bring in a new contract for the Selectmen to review and sign. Wes suggested that Reuben advise the Selectmen a couple of months in advance of the contract expiring. Reuben agreed to meet with the Selectmen once a month to review his work in progress.

The Selectmen have not received the notes from Tom Closson on the revised Personnel Policy. Nancy was asked to send a reminder to Tom.

The Selectmen are still looking for a resident to serve as a Planning Board Member.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer

